Appointment of Joint Secretaries of Government of India

575. Dr. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer given to Unstarred Question 1294 in the Rajya Sabha on 30th April, 1987 and state:

(a) what are the pay scales which are taken into account for empanelment for the post of Joint Secretary of the Government of India; and

(b) what is the total number of persons who have been appointed as Joint Secretaries in the Government of India during the last five years alongwith their length of service and pay scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Officers of Central Group 'A' Services are normally considered for empanelment as Joint Secretary, when at least one of the officers of a particular batch has been promoted to hold Level-II post (Scale Rs 2250-2500) (Pre-revised) in the Cadre. The whole batch is then considered for such empanelment irrespective of whether all the officers of the batch have actually been promoted to Level-II posts or not.

(b) 515 officers were appointed as Joint Secretaries in Government of India during the period from 1983 to 1987 (upto October). Appointments to these posts are made keeping in view the qualifications/experience etc required for the job and the availability of eligible officers in the field of choice. Suitability for a particular post rather than seniority is the determining factor in making such appointments.

Vacancies of Judges in High Courts

576. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Judges in the various State High Courts till October, 1987;

(b) by when will these vacancies be filled up; and

(c) reasons for delay in filling up of these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) As on 31st October, 1987, there were 50 vacancies in the total sanctioned strength of 442 Judges in various High Courts of the country. High Court wise break-up is given in the enclosed statement. (See Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 12). Selection of Judges involves deliberation in consultation with the Chief Justice, the Governor of the State and the Chief Justice of India; this takes time as the effort is to appoint the most suitable persons as Judges.

It is not possible to indicate the time by when these vacancies will be filled.

Pension/Gratuity for retired officer of Punjab

577. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether pension/gratuity dues of Shri D.N. Kashyap, A.I.G. Prison, Punjab who retire on 30th September, 1979; have been settled and paid to him; if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether any representations in this regard dated 11th June, 1987 and 6th July, 1987 were received by Government;